

Public Health Committee: H.B. 6200

I strongly urge you to pass this bill. I am a patient who has been dealing with chronic Lyme disease for close to two years. I saw five doctors before being diagnosed properly and recently also tested positive for Babesiosis. Tick-borne illnesses are debilitating. I have not been able to work for the past 1 ½ years due to chronic pain, extreme fatigue, trouble breathing, and cognitive difficulties. I have been on antibiotics for months and have slowly improved to the point where I am now starting to feel like I can function again as a human being. Living in a Lyme endemic area, I know many people who have this awful illness. Most have to travel out of state (Mass) to get proper treatment. Please allow these doctors to treat their Lyme patients without interference. They have seen improvements in the quality of life for their patients using long term antibiotics. I know firsthand that I would not have improved had I listened to the first few doctors who told me I couldn't possibly have Lyme or any other tick illnesses because I didn't improve after a few weeks of antibiotics even though I had positive blood work. Again I strongly urge you to pass this bill. Please don't take this option away from us.

Sincerely,

Susan Finnegan
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